

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, October 17, 1876, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. Cambridge, Tuesday, October 17th., (1876) My dear Mrs. Bell:

I received your kind letter a few days ago, and answered it at once but the letter was interrupted and I have had little time since.

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit you in Brantford. Ever since my engagement I have wanted very much to see you and your home. But I feel as if I had rather not go to Brantford among all Alec's friends, until he takes me. You are all so associated with him that I want to see you with him for the first time. And I am sure too it would be pleasanter for us all.

I am not quite sure I can go West, Papa travels in a special car with several other gentlemen of the Postal Commission, and there may not be room for me. It would be very dissapointing to lose this chance of seeing San Franci a s co and the West, but it would be so hard to leave Alec for so long that I should not mind as much.

We have been very busy through the past two weeks getting our house in order for the winter. The house needed painting on the outside and some repairs on the roof and chimneys. We had ten men at work on the outside at one time and Mamma was quite alarmed at the free way in which painters and carpenters opened windows and walked into bedrooms while at their work. We are living now in quite a primitive way, all our silver has been sent away and we are left with but two servants, so we all take part in the lighter housework.

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Friday my Sisters came from boarding school to spend Sunday also Miss True my former Governess, and a cousin, so we were quite a large family and a contrast to the week before when Mamma, Alec and I were the only occupants of the house. We had another visitor too, outside, the snow, which surprised us Sunday morning. It is the first time we ever saw the snow so early, and it looked so pretty on the still green grass and bright colored leaves. Still it was not pleasant to be reminded that winter is no near at hand.

I suppose Alec has told you all about his experiments over the Walworth line last week and his lecture before the Academy. I have seldom seen him so pleased or excited about anything.

Writing of Alec's experiments reminds me I have not finished copying them, so I must say Goodbye with love to you and Mr. Bell.

Affectionately, Mabel.